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Professor Otis Frederick Manson, M.D.

"The prime qualities of a physician may be summed up in the words: *Cassax, perspicax, sagax, efficax*. *Cassax*—there must be room to receive, and arrange, and keep knowledge; *perspicax*—senses and perceptions, keen, accurate, immediate, to bring in materials from suitable things; *sagax*—a central power of knowing what is what, and what it is worth, of choosing and rejecting, of judging, and, finally, *efficax*—the will and the way—the power to turn the other three—capacity, perspicacity, sagacity, to account, in the performance of the thing in hand, and thus rendering back to the outer world, in a new and useful form, what you have received from it.—JOHN BROWN, M.D.—*Horæ Subsicivæ*.

No calling in life involves more nobly the best attributes of man than that of Medicine; its just offices exacting, at once, and continuously, engrossing solicitude, unremitting study, sacrifice of personal comfort, and absolute disregard of peril.

It may be confidently assumed that, in the luminous roll in the world's history of devotees of the healing art, not one has been more sublimely possessed than was the subject of this notice.

The life-springs of Otis Frederick Manson were inspiring. His original extraction was Scotch—a race distinctively fervent, leal and indomitable. He was the great-grandson of Dr. Nathan Hemingway and of Frederick Manson, both of whom emigrated from Glamis, Scotland, in the earlier decades of the last century, and settled in Roxborough, Massachusetts. An early and time-worn emblazoning preserved by a descendant of Frederick Manson, indicates his origin. The arms displayed are those given by Burke as of Innerthie, as follows: *Argent, a long cross gules, between two mullets in chief, and a crescent in base azure*. Frederick Manson, Jr., of Farmington, Massachusetts, son of the emigrant, attested his lineage and patriotism at Concord, Lexington and Monmouth in the American struggle, the result of which was a beacon to freedom throughout the world.

The son of the last named, Otis Manson, served in the second war with Great Britain, in 1812, and settled at Richmond, Virginia, as an architect and builder. He was a prominent, useful and valued citizen, serving for many years as a member of the City Council and of several charitable and educational boards. His son, Otis Frederick Manson, was born in Richmond, October 10, 1822, and had such educational advantages as the city afforded, his final course being at the Richmond Academy, under one John Burke, a classical scholar, and his school-

mates included many who afterwards became prominent. As a lad, he was, too, a member for years of the Patrick Henry Literary and Debating Society, among whose members may be recalled the late Colonel Thomas P. August, of soulful wit, and the earnest bibliomaniac and useful citizen, Thomas H. Wynne. Otis Frederick-Manson was graduated from the Medical Department of Hampden-Sydney College (now the Medical College of Virginia) at the age of eighteen years, and settled soon after, in 1841, in Granville county, North Carolina. On the breaking out of the small-pox epidemic in the border county of Mecklenburg, Virginia, a year later, Dr. Manson was appointed physician to the infected district, and by his zeal and ability laid the basis of the affectionate regard in which he was soon after held by the people of North Carolina. There being no vaccine virus obtainable, he treated his patients by inoculation with marked success.

In 1862 he was commissioned a surgeon in the Confederate States Army, and placed in charge of a hospital in Richmond. He was subsequently appointed Medical Agent, with the rank of Major, by the State of North Carolina, to afford relief to its troops in Virginia, which he did in an admirably supplied and conducted hospital for the sick and wounded, and a refreshment house for the soldiers *en route* to and from the army. These positions he continued to hold until the surrender of General Lee, and with such signal satisfaction to all interested, that Governor Vance testified gratefully that "he endeared himself not only to me, but every man, woman and child in North Carolina loves him." After the war Dr. Manson settled in Richmond in the practice of his profession, and January 23, 1869, was appointed Professor of Pathology and Physiology in the Medical College of Virginia, which position he continued to hold until November 1, 1882, when he resigned to devote himself to his practice. At the next subsequent meeting of the Board of the College he was elected Emeritus Professor of the chairs he had so long and ably filled.

He was also for some time a member of the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of Virginia, as he had been of that of North Carolina. He also served as a member of the Council of the city of Richmond from July 1, 1874, to July 1, 1882, for the last two years as its President. He subsequently devoted himself exclusively to his profession, declining further official trust. He was latterly physician to the numerous employés of the extensive tobacco manufacturing establishment of Allen & Ginter, a trust which so severely taxed his waning physical capacity, in his devoted and self-sacrificing ministrations, as to occasion a collapse of his system and his death from apoplexy January 25, 1888. In grateful tribute to his exalted zeal, these beneficiaries gave touching expression at the obsequies in numerous beautiful floral designs. After a most impressive service, a benefactor of his kind was laid at rest in the lately laid off addition to Richmond's picturesque "City of the Dead"—Hollywood—near the banks of the historic James, and within sound of its murmuring waters.

Dr. Manson, in the science of his profession, was not only singu-

larly profound, but he possessed the intuition of inborn destiny and the inspiring realization of the discoverer. An unremitting student, an acute observer, thorough investigator, and (once convinced) a confident essayer, he boldly put in practice, indifferent to the criticism of his conventional associates, the results of his genius.

His contributions to medical science since 1846 have been numerous in papers on "Malarial Fever," "Pneumonia," "Cholera Infantum," "Puerperal Fever," etc., advocating their miasmatic origin and the free employment of quinine as a sedative, antiphlogistic and anti-pyretic in their treatment, and also extending its use in corysipelas, scarlatina, croup, rheumatism, etc.

As early as January, 1855, Dr. Manson published a most important original discovery of his in his observation of the phenomena of Remittent Fever in puerperal cases; its pathology and treatment. His claim as discoverer has been unqualifiedly admitted by Dr. Fordyce Barker, the eminent author of the best work on "Puerperal Diseases," and by all authorities now, English and American. Dr. Barker, in a letter to Dr. Manson, magnanimously testified: "I cordially congratulate you on the fact that, so far as my acquaintance with medical literature permits me to judge, you are the first medical writer who has described this [the presence of malarial fever] as a distinctive feature."

Not only in his profession was Dr. Manson learned, but his accomplishments in other fields of investigation and branches of learning were varied and extensive. Pure and refined in his tastes, gentle, courteous and winning in his manners, tasteful in his attire, and dignified in bearing, with a responsive nature, abounding in sympathy and charity, his merits and virtues assured him affectionate regard.

He possessed a singularly choice and valuable library, in medical and general literature, numbering more than two thousand volumes, the medical portion of which included the earliest printed theses and works in several languages. The more important of his recently published contributions to medicine are: "A Treatise on the Physiological and Therapeutic Action of the Sulphate of Quinine," 12mo., Philadelphia, 1882, and "A Treatise on Malarial Hæmorrhage, embracing Epistaxis, Odontorrhagia, Stomatorrhagia, Hæmoptysis, Hæmatemesis, Enterorrhagia, Metrorrhagia and Hæmaturia," 8vo., Richmond, 1886. The last was a chapter towards, and to be included in, a life-cherished work of the lamented and learned author—"A History of Fevers from the Earliest Times"—for consultation in the preparation of which he had spared no expense in providing himself with all obtainable authorities.

Dr. Manson was twice married—first, in 1843, to Mary Anne Spotswood, daughter of Spotswood Burwell, Esq., of Granville county, North Carolina, and a great-grand-daughter of Colonel Alexander Spotswood, one of the ablest Governors of Colonial Virginia. He had issue by this marriage: 1. Sallie Spotswood—married A. L. Hunt, Esq. (and had issue: Albert Frederick, Mary Eliza,

Sanger Manson and William Manson). 2. Otis, now residing in Texas. 3. Eliza Sanger—married Thomas Lee Alfried, Esq., Richmond, Va. (who has issue: Mary Burwell, Otis Manson, Sallie Spotswood and Anna Lee). 4. William Frederick—married Mary, daughter of Dr. E. H. Randall, of Calvert, Texas, and now resides in New York City. 5. Mary Anna—is the second wife of A. L. Hunt, Esq., as above. 6. Lewis Burwell—married Ella Trueman, of Kentucky, and now resides in Texas.

Dr. Manson married, secondly, October 25, 1881, Mrs. Helen (Gray) Wattson, daughter of the late William Gray, Esq., a wealthy and influential tobacco manufacturer and exporter of Richmond, and by whom there is no surviving issue.

A brother and two sisters of Dr. Manson survive: Colonel Charles H. Manson, Columbia, South Carolina, who has been most prominently connected with the railroad interests of the South for many years, and whose friends count legions; Mrs. Eliza Sanger Eaton, residing in San Francisco, California, and Mrs. Mary Littlejohn, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Science has sustained a loss and the Medical Profession mourns in the extinguishment of a light and the translation of an exponent and an apostle.

Requiescat in pace!

R. A. BROCK.